

# Hawaii MARINE

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Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

**Above — Marine Corps Base Hawaii mascot Cpl. Danno, an English Bulldog, sports his holiday threads before fellow devil dogs.**

**Right — Alex De Leon, a resident of MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, gets a special hug from Santa (Gunnery Sgt. Larry Sabatine of Marine Corps Air Facility) during the fourth Annual Toys for Tots Drive aboard K-Bay.**



Susana Choy

Dear Marines, Sailors and family members,

As we begin our Holiday Season, Margaret and I want to convey our very best wishes to you and your family for a joyful and safe holiday celebration.

This time of year many of us celebrate various religious traditions that focus on beliefs that are central to our faith. For those with other than religious beliefs, this is a time full of abundant opportunity for renewal and refreshment.

One thing that is common to all these celebrations — Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr, Chanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa — is a sense of family and the sharing of our rich heritages.

This is especially true for Marines and Sailors. We've been called to a special mission to defend the world against terrorism. The challenge calls for unusual sacrifice and commitment and many of our naval family are living out that commitment in harms way at this very moment.

While we are all celebrating and enjoying the rich traditions that we have grown up with, it is important that we keep our deployed Marines and Sailors and their families in our minds and hearts as they defend the freedoms of our great Nation.

So enjoy the great traditions this season has handed down to us. And may we never forget the many gifts we have as a Marine Corps and Navy family and our need to take care of each other now and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely,

J.C. McAbee

Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding General, MCB Hawaii

## Recreation center to open aboard base

**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**

*Combat Correspondent*

A \$400,000 renovation to Kahuna's Sports Bar & Grill will yield a brand new Recreation Center for E-5 and below Marines and Sailors stationed aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, beginning Dec. 17.

Attached to the year-old Kahuna's, the new Recreation Center will feature many amenities including pool

tables, a movie theater, computer stations, pay phones, Starbucks Coffee, video games and a new headquarters for the Single Marine and Sailor Program.

The new theater will seat as many as 20 people at a time, and show current movies like those at the base theater. Current video games will complement big screen TVs and X-Box and Playstation 2 video game stations. Sixteen Internet-ready computers will

also be available for use, and the center plans to hold many pool tournaments on its new tables.

"The feedback from SM&SP called for a place where they could get away and relax, without having to deal with the whole sports bar attitude that Kahuna's provides," said Alexis Swenson, manager of the Enlisted Club,

The new recreation center will be an alcohol-free facility, according to Swenson, to pro-

vide a laid-back atmosphere to Recreation Center patrons. The center is filled with furniture to fit its new look and attitude, such as large comfortable chairs and beanbags, already awaiting patrons.

The center will hold its grand opening at 10 am on Wednesday with a ceremony. Hours for the new center will be Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Crime not tolerated on MCBH

**Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle**

*Combat Correspondent*

Investigators with the Provost Marshal's Office apprehended two suspects in a rash of burglaries and auto break-ins that occurred in the family housing area aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The apprehensions were the result of an intense investigation and really good tips from base residents.

"I heard a noise from my carport at about 1:30 a.m. and got up to investigate. As I stepped outside, I saw a car with its lights on," said Lt. Col. Danny Strand, the MCB Hawaii Anti-Terrorism Officer.

He watched the vehicle for almost a minute and it didn't move. Finally, it passed him at a high rate of speed, too fast to get a license plate number, only a good look at the vehicle type and color.

Strand immediately notified Military Police.

*See CRIME, A-9*

## Island Warriors land on Okinawa for UDP

**Cpl. Ryan D. Libbert**

*MCB Camp Butler*

**CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan** — More than 800 Marines and Sailors from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have arrived on Okinawa for a seven-month unit deployment program tour as an attachment to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

The battalion replaced 1/3 as the UDP battalion located on Camp Hansen in early November.

The Marines from 2/3, also known as the "Island Warriors," have a great deal scheduled during their time forward-

deployed to Okinawa, according to Lt. Col. Andrew R. MacMannis, battalion commander.

"We have several training opportunities that we're looking forward to during our time with 4th Marines," MacMannis said. "The bigger highlights of our time here will be the training we conduct at JWTC [Jungle Warfare Training Center], Camp Fuji and Exercise Forest Light."

Coming from the tropical environment that encompasses Hawaii, the Island Warriors will have the unique opportunity to train in the cold and chilling temper-

*See 2/3, A-9*



Cpl. Ryan D. Libbert

**The Marines from 2/3 will be attached to 4th Marine Regiment during their seven month UDP tour in Okinawa, Japan.**

**Hawaii Marine readers, enjoy the Hawaii Military Star Dec. 19 – Jan. 2.**

# MCBH News Briefs

## K-Bay Chapel to Host Several Christmas Season Events

The MCB Hawaii community is invited to the following events at the base chapel, Kaneohe Bay, Bldg. 1090.

•*Sunday at 3 p.m.:* Mark your calendars now for the Ecumenical Children’s Program and Party.

•*Wednesday at 7 p.m.:* Roman Catholics will hold a Penance Service.

•*Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.:* Protestants will celebrate Christmas with a Candlelight Service.

•*Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.:* Roman Catholics will celebrate Christmas with Mass.

•*Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m.:* Roman Catholics will celebrate Christmas with Mass.

For more information, call the base chapel at 257-3552.

## Neighborhood Watch Volunteers Sought

The Crime Prevention section of the Military Police Department is looking for neighborhood watch representatives to get involved in their communities, by taking charge of local neighborhoods.

For more information or to volunteer, call 257-2103, ext. 314 or 315.

## Lost & Found Items Collected at MPD

If you are missing valuables or other items, contact Lost and Found at the Military Police Department, to see if anyone has turned in the item(s).

Lost items on hand include ID cards, bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry. An inquiry log is maintained for all item(s) retrieved.

Call Sgt. Gordon Scott at 257-2103, ext. 315, for prompt assistance.

## Important Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Crisis Hotline	521-4555
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852

# Hawaii MARINE

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# IN THE CG’S MAIL BOX



BRIG. GEN.  
MCABEE

I have a few suggestions in regards to financial savings aboard MCB Hawaii.

First off, I would like to mention that there are so many great programs available to those of us aboard this base. For the first example I would like to mention something about the sports programs. I think that the fields are well lit and we all have a great time playing ball. The one thing that really upsets me is the abuse of how long the lights stay on, long after the players are gone.

I have driven by different fields, and at all different hours, and the lights are shining bright and not a person within sight.

I love the many freedoms we receive here on this base, but I feel that there are those that simply do not respect those freedoms, nor do they appreciate the bounty.

I can only imagine the cost of running all those lights and for what? I would suggest that a lock be put on the power box, and when the official games are ready for play, they are opened, and when the games are over, the lock gets put back on the box.

All too often, someone goes out there to practice or a few kids are around to play and turn those lights on. As a person who is always looking around to save a few bucks of my own money, and that of the Corps as well, I think this is one small way to tuck a buck or two away as well.

The other issue with saving a few

dollars is in regards to the Marine Corps Exchange. I understand that it is warm here in Hawaii, and there is a need to keep the exchange cool, but I do not understand the need to keep that place so “COLD.”

This has to be an expensive luxury, and I am sure that if the temperatures were readjusted to just a few degrees warmer, that the money saved would be better used elsewhere aboard this base.

I have also noticed that many employees are wearing sweaters and other winter clothes, while many dependents coming in to shop are also carrying their sweaters and sweatshirts. I know that many people love the cold and will wear shorts no matter what, but I am suggesting a way to save money, and as cold as it is, and as much as it costs to make it that cold, I am sure this would be a considerable amount of money in savings if the temperature were to be changed — even if only a few degrees.

I thank you for this opportunity, Sir, and hope for this type of thing to remain in place for years to come.

Sgt. Myers

Dear Sgt. Myers,  
I was asked by the commanding general to respond to your e-mail of Nov. 16 because your concern falls under my staff’s area of responsibility. The commanding general appreciates that you took the time to participate in the “CG Mail” pro-

Comment submitted by Sgt. Myers

*“I love the many freedoms we receive here on this base, but I feel that there are those that simply do not respect those freedoms, nor do they appreciate the bounty.”*

gram.

Thank you for your insight and recommendations with respect to energy conservation measures.

You are correct in that the field lighting systems are on at times when authorized patrons are not using the fields. Allow me to explain: our lighting systems operate on a combination of photocells and timers. The photocells restrict the lights from being turned on until it is dark; once the system is engaged, timers only allow the lights to be turned on for one hour at a time. This system is similar to those found at city and county parks on the island.

In reference to the temperature at the Marine Corps Exchange (MCX), we have already begun to address concerns of cold temperatures. As a matter of fact, we are in the process of replacing all air conditioning systems at the MCX and at Mokapu Mall and plan on having these systems in place by the end of January.

These air conditioning units are designed to consume less energy and will ultimately cool both locations at an average, comfortable temperature of 76 degrees.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments and concerns. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 254-7500.

Sincerely,  
Mr. William B. Lindsey  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
Marine Corps  
Community Services

*(Editor’s Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)  
The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn’t be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?  
Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.*

# COMMENTARY

## Diversity, devotion make Corps strong

**Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

I will never forget the day I met my best friend.

We were in the cafeteria of Marietta High School, Marietta, Ga., when I saw him in line with many other students. What was odd about him was the fact that he had curly hair, which reminded me of Shirley Temple, and he was speaking a weird, yet interesting-sounding language.

His name was Cristiano Macedo Silva, from Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Although we were only 15 years old when we met and spoke different languages, I feel we connected immediately. He introduced me to his family, and they were some of the nicest people I have come to know. They were welcoming and they knew how to have a good time. Every time I went to his house, laughter and the mouth-watering scent of a Brazilian dish filled the room.

Cristiano was a very laid-back individual. I always remember how we would make plans to go out, and his grand arrival was always an hour or two after the planned time. It never failed that he would arrive with some off-the-wall excuse and a silly grin while giving the wild excuse.

When I look back on my youth, I feel Cristiano is still the one friend I still have whom I can count on. He was there for me whenever I needed

him and I was there for him as well. My friendship with Cristiano broadened my horizons. I learned a lot about culture and how to accept people’s differences. I learned the Portuguese language and traveled to Brazil.

The two of us had a knack for finding innocent trouble; nonetheless Cristiano graduated high school with the class of ’99 and planned to continue on to college, while I was enlisted in the Army. I wanted to be a Marine, but I only had a GED. I remember trying to talk Cristiano into joining the Army as well, but he stopped listening after the word “haircut.”

“Cut my hair off,” he replied. I tried to further convince him to join the Army, but soon gave up. I was sent overseas to Korea and we still stayed in contact.

After my discharge from the Army, I returned home to Marietta. Cristiano had completed maybe a quarter of college. I tried once again to get into the Marines, but in order to serve in the world’s finest fighting force, one must graduate high school. At age 20, I returned to Marietta High as the oldest kid in the school. This time Cristiano was not there with me.

When I graduated at age 21, I then had the qualifications to enlist in the Marine Corps. Once again, I found myself trying to talk Cristiano into joining, but I got the same story from him. I could not get him to listen past

the word “haircut.”

Then it happened. We were driving down a street near the recruiter’s office, and I said to him, “Let’s just go talk to the recruiter.” With a turn of the steering wheel, my curly haired, hippie-looking buddy was in front of a Marine Corps recruiter. I remember the recruiter telling Cristiano what it meant to be a Marine. He told him that Marines come from all over, and the diversity in the Marine Corps is what makes it strong. He told him that regardless of where you come from, if you have the motivation, you could make a better person of yourself in the Marine Corps.

With that, my brother-at-heart was on his way to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., to begin his four-year contract as a Marine. I was not scheduled to ship out until one month after he would return home from boot camp.

Cristiano made it through boot camp and came home a totally different man. His hair was short and his face was clean-shaven. He had taken the first step to a better life. I was proud of him and so was his family.

Cristiano enlisted on an “open contract.” This means the Marine Corps would pick a military occupational specialty for him, based on his Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores. He was assigned as an

See *BROTHERS*, A-7

# The Marines’ way of life

## Executive leaders take dive towards better understanding

Story and Photos by  
**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
*Combat Correspondent*

More than 50 Department of Defense employees out of Washington, D.C., convened on MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Monday, to gain a better understanding of Marine Corps training and lifestyle requirements from a first-hand perspective.

Members of the Executive Leadership Development Program, headed by former Marine Kimberly Kessler, had an early start to the day as they gathered first for a briefing on the day’s events before moving out to the Boondocker Training Area at 9 a.m., where they would attempt to conquer the rappel tower and obstacle course with the help of warriors from 3rd Marine Regiment and Regimental Schools.

“We want to make sure these current or potential leaders understand the challenges and requirements of today’s military,” said Kessler. “A lot of these individuals, without this program, would otherwise not get out of their offices to gain a real understanding of what goes on in a real military installation. Deployments like todays at the Marines’ base help ensure that these decision makers will be better educated to make the right decisions when choices come on down the line some-

where.”  
The ELDP is comprised of six separate deployments, which reach out to each branch of the military, including the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as a two-week introductory course that prepares program attendees for dealing with the military on a personal basis during the deployments.

Members of the ELDP are either DoD civilian personnel or O-3 or above military personnel who have a vested interest in understanding the overall mechanics of the current U.S. military.

“We purposely visit the Marines first,” Kessler, a former chief warrant officer, said. “We visit them first because they’re the best.”

Upon arrival, the group split into four separate teams. The teams divided and attacked the Boondocker’s rappel tower and o-course with the tenacity of any highly charged platoon of Marines, giving each other encouragement and helping one another through the many obstacles constructed on the course.

One after another, the ELDP members completed the obstacles and the tower, which came as quite a



To begin the obstacle course, ELDLP members had to first hop over the easiest of obstacles, a 3-foot suspended log that came before one of the hardest — the high bar.



Dressed all in black, the ELDP participants resembled a newly formed SWAT team in the making as they learned how to rappel at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

thrill to those who usually work in office cubicles.

“This was so cool,” exclaimed Vilma Colix, a civilian employee at the Pentagon’s Chief of Naval Operations Office, after just finishing her descent from the rappel tower. “Once I was on it, it was really a blast. The instructors were all great, and the briefings really prepared us for this;

what a good time.”

In addition to learning how to rappel or clear man-made obstacles, the DoD civilians hopefully gained the understanding of what training like a Marine is all about, so that the ELDP can “provide the DoD with well-rounded civilians who can make a positive impact with their decisions,” Kessler said.



The ELDP members used teamwork to negotiate most of the obstacles. Some obstacles, such as balancing on the six-foot-high log, could be breached by one person.

# Word on the Street

“What is your favorite Christmas movie?”



“...‘The Grinch,’ because my wife loves it.”

**Sgt. William Pendleton**  
Radio operator  
3/3



“...‘Home Alone. It is just a funny movie.”

**Joseph Kaelohanui**  
Labor Shop 71,  
Facilities



“...‘Eight Crazy Nights’ [which is about Chanukkah]. I just like it; it made me laugh.”

**Pfc. Nicholas Gregoire**  
Vehicle operator  
Motor Transportation,  
CSSG-3



“...‘It’s a Wonderful Life,’ because of the meaning of the movie.”

**Natasha Turner**  
Family member



“...‘National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation.’ It shows that no matter how bad things are, they can only get better.”

**Lance Cpl. Bradley Thomas**  
Machinegunner  
Weapons Co., 1/3

## Operation Iraqi Freedom

# Marine’s quick thinking nets ‘Combat V’ distinction

**Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

A split-second decision made in the heat of combat can possibly determine the success or failure of a mission and the survival chances of the Marines who are bravely fighting enemy forces.

Captain Anthony Muralt, administrative officer for Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, Marine Aircraft Group 24, aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, was recently awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a Combat “V” following Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Muralt, who was deployed in January with the 1st Tank Battalion, Twentynine Palms, Calif., was on the outskirts of Basra, Iraq, setting up a perimeter to restrict the flow of traffic in and out of the city, while infantrymen cleared an industrial building that was believed to have Iraqi soldiers hiding within.

The infantrymen cleared the building, and as the morning sun came up over the sands of Iraq, Muralt and his unit were on the move again — this time to secure a bridge leading into Basra to prevent against an enemy counterattack.

While on guard, a slew of enemy soldiers dressed in civilian clothing attacked Muralt’s unit with the use of small-arms fire. The Marines returned fire, and within moments, the Marines of 1st Tanks overwhelmed the enemy soldiers with small-arms fire. The enemy was on the run, scattering in different directions.

“When we returned fire on the enemy, the actual fight only lasted a few moments, and we destroyed the majority of them,” recalled Muralt. “The rest of them who were still standing realized they had no chance and scattered in different directions leaving the dead and

*See MURALT, A-8*



Courtesy of Captain Anthony Muralt

**Captain Anthony Muralt, administrative officer for Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301, received the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a Combat “V” following actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

# HMH-363 tops 20,000 mishap-free flying hours

**Sgt. Joseph A. Lee**  
*Combat Correspondent*

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, Marine Aircraft Group 24, reached a milestone this month in aviation safety by flying 20,000 hours without a Class “A” mishap.

According to Capt. John Kirby, HMH-363 safety officer, a Class “A” mishap would involve more than \$1 million in damage to government property and/or death, dismemberment or serious incapacitation of a service member.

“The last time we had a mishap of the magnitude was in 1994,” said Kirby. “Thanks to the implementation of proper safety checks and the operational risk management system performed by the helicopter pilots and crew, we were able to avoid such serious incidents throughout the past decade.”

Though the pilot ultimately controls the helicopter, the responsibility of completing a mission without

mishap rests in the hands of all the Marines onboard the aircraft.

“This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication of all the Marines of HMH-363 here today, as well as the thousands of Marines that have served with this unit over the past decade,” said Lt. Col. Justin Wisdom,

*See HMH-363, A-8*

# SJA gets top recognition

**Cpl. Luis R. Agostini**  
*Marine Forces Pacific*



**FORKIN**

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES PACIFIC — Major Keith A. Forkin, deputy staff judge advocate here, was recognized as the Corps' best during the 2002-2003 Outstanding Young Military Service Lawyer Awards. He was honored in a ceremony sponsored by the American Bar

Association Young Lawyers Division, Government, Military And Public Service Lawyers Committee, recently in San Francisco.

Brigadier Gen. Kevin Sankuhler, SJA to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, was among the distinguished leaders who presented Forkin's award.

Military attorneys are selected for this award based upon their demonstrated excellence in the delivery of legal services, proven leadership ability, con-

*See FORKIN, A-9*

(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for DUIs or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the Hawaii Marine newspaper.)

**Congratulations, MCB Hawaii!**

The Provost Marshall's Office reported no DUI incidents for the week of Dec. 1-5. Keep up the good work!

## DUIs are career killers

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reminds that impaired driving is not merely a traffic offense. Don't be fooled. Impaired driving is no accident nor is it a victimless crime.

Too many people still don't understand that alcohol, drugs and driving don't mix. If you also find this too hard to figure out when you've had too many drinks to drive, don't risk it. If you're feeling "buzzed," you are most likely impaired. And, if you drive impaired, law enforcement will arrest you.

### TO DO LIST

Before any activity that involves alcohol:

- Plan ahead.

- Choose a sober designated driver.
- Take mass transit or a taxicab, or ask a friend to drive you home if you didn't plan in advance.

- Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Celebrate responsibly.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.

# Gift bearers

Below — In a thunderous roar and a wail of sirens, the 4th Annual Toys for Tots drive aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay wound its way through K-Bay housing Saturday. Runners from Marine Corps Air Facility ran the entire route and were responsible for picking up the toy donations from residents who eagerly waited along the route. Sparky the Fire Safety Dog, perched on top of the second fire truck that led the drive that included motorcyclists, runners, and others, helped greet onlookers and gift givers.

Photos by Susana Choy



Above — Devin York and Elizabeth Dachleda were well-dressed for the occasion. Below — Lance Cpl. Daniel Fullenwider with 4th Force Reconnaissance Co., took toy donations from motorcyclists of all ages Sunday.



A stuffed Christmas bear enjoyed a front row seat in Sunday's ride.



Above — Thousands of bikers from Oahu and the neighbor islands rumbled through Waikiki the following day for the Street Bikers United 30th Annual Toy for Tots Run to deliver their load of presents for needy children. Left — Gunnery Sgt. Richie Drawdy with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, packed his daughter Brianna and participated in Saturday's Toys for Tots drive aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

*BROTHERS, From A-2*

Amphibious Assault Vehicle mechanic and was sent to Camp Pendleton, Calif. After I graduated from boot camp, I became a combat correspondent and received orders to Hawaii.

I often talked to Cristiano, who by then was a lance corporal, while he was in California. He liked the Marine Corps and was doing an outstanding job. He had scored very high on the physical fitness test and was an expert rifleman. He was a good Marine.

I never will forget the day I got a call from Lance Cpl. Silva. As soon as I answered my cell phone, I knew something was wrong.

“I am going to war. I am going to go fight in a war,” were the first words out of his mouth.

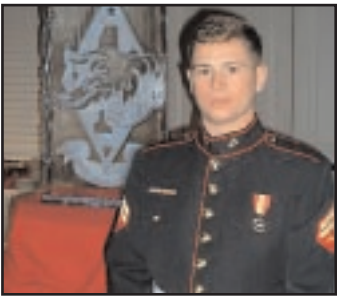
Cristiano’s unit was being sent to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I did not know what to say to him. The only words I could say were, “keep your head low and your eyes open.”

“Semper Fidelis, brother,” was the last thing I told him. Then he told me something I will always remember. He told me that he believed God made us friends and that I was his best friend and that joining the Marine Corps was the greatest thing to ever happen to him. He was going to war. He was going to fight for a country he could not yet call his own.

That same young man that came from another country and could never show up on time was promoted to corporal on the battlefield during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He sent me letters telling me about the atrocities committed by the enemy that he witnessed while in the combat zone. In one letter he even thanked me for getting him in the Marines. He talked about all the things people take for granted in life that should be appreciated.

He now viewed life in a totally different way. He was now a leader of Marines in our beloved Marine Corps. He even outranked me.

I often had to talk to my best friend’s mother on the phone, and she frequently asked me, “Is Cris going to be okay?” To comfort a worried mother, I told her he would. The truth was, I did not know if Cristiano would return home unharmed. I didn’t even know if he would return alive. He was defending a country he wanted to call his own, and I knew that if he had



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

**Corporal Cristiano Silva received citizenship for service in the United States Marine Corps.**

to, he would put his life on the line to defend the Marines under his charge.

“I’m alive,” were the first words out of his mouth when he called me after his return from the war. Tears fell down my cheek as I told him how proud I was of him for the sacrifices he made for this country. He told me he wanted to be a citizen of the United States. I told him if anyone deserved to be one, he did. I could only hope that he received his citizenship before his enlistment was up.

Countless numbers of non-citizens are serving in our beloved Marine Corps today, many of whom were deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom, some giving their lives to defend the American way of life. They all had different reasons for enlisting in the Marine Corps,

but underlying everything, they are Americans at heart and have shown their loyalty to this country.

I believe Cpl. Silva will move on to do more great things for this country. He will always be my

closest friend whose friendship I cherish. We are now bonded by a brotherhood.

I remember seeing a poster of a Marine in the aviation field at our recruiting station and the image always stuck with

me. The poster read, “They came from all over, but still, they came. Join the Marines today.”

I know now why I remembered it so fondly. That poster referred to Marines like Cpl. Silva who come from different

cultures and backgrounds.

After Silva returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, his dream came true. During a citizenship ceremony on July 24, he became a citizen of the United States of America.



Sgt, Joseph A. Lee

**Captain Anthony Fiacco (front), a flight line officer and pilot with HMMH-363, runs down a list of safety precautions with Capt. John Kirby, HMMH-363 safety officer.**

*HMMH-363, From A-4*

commanding officer of HMMH-363. “While deployed on the unit deployment program, these helicopters flew a lot of hours over international waters, and over foreign territories. “Pilots can get comfortable with the local environment, but when you are conducting operations in unfamiliar territory, the risk level rises that much more,” Wisdom explained. Working with helicopters and equipment more than 30 years old can also increase the probability of


a mishap, but it can be compensated for with hard-working maintenance crews, according to Kirby. “Most of these helicopters are older than I am,” said Kirby. “The Marines that work around the clock in HMMH-363, fixing and preparing these machines for action, are really the people to thank for reaching this goal. The dedication these Marines put into their work goes a long way to ensure safe flying operations.” Unaware that he was flying the final hours to complete 20,000 hours,

Capt. Anthony Fiacco, a flight line officer and pilot with HMMH-363, said he would have done nothing different had he known. “I’m just happy to be a Marine in such a safe unit,” said Fiacco. “The use of operational risk management before our flights means that we look at all the aspects of the mission, as well as the current condition of the personnel conducting them. “If there is some sort of problem a pilot may be having, depending on mission requirement, that

pilot may be replaced simply for safety concerns, and I think that is a good way to operate to ensure the safety of all the Marines onboard.” Using operational risk management, conducting proper safety checks, and properly maintaining and repairing equipment over the past decade has allowed HMMH-363 to reach 20,000 hours mishap-free, and Wisdom hopes future commanding officers are here for even greater milestones. “As long as these Marines keep doing their jobs the way they are suppose to, HMMH-363 should be celebrating 40,000 and even 60,000 mishap-free hours in the years to come,” said Wisdom.

*MURALT, From A-4*

wounded behind.” The bridge that the Marines were guarding was also the only means of transportation in and out of the city of Basra. Therefore, they expected another counterattack. “We were ready for another counterattack, and we also had to keep the enemy from crossing the bridge when a British soldier came across the bridge to inform us that a battalion-sized element of enemy soldiers was preparing defensive positions on the other side,” said Muralt. “He told us that there were armored personnel carriers and [sports utility vehicles] used for suicide missions.” Muralt knew that air support would be needed in order to successfully destroy the threat on the other side of the bridge. Using training he had received on radios while stationed at Twentynine Palms, he attempted to call for close air support using the PRC-113 Radio. “I jumped on the radio and called for air support, but I had no way of giving grid coordinates,” he remembered. “I had to tell them where we were and where the enemy was by using visual coordination.” Moments later, four AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters came in from different directions and bombarded the enemy and equipment with an entourage of firepower. For 45 minutes, the helicopters laid down enough firepower to prohibit the enemy from launching an attack against the Marines. This enabled the British troops to enter Basra and establish a stronghold in the city. “I just did my job,” said a humble Muralt. “I never expected any kind of award for what I did. I was only concerned about the welfare of the troops and accomplishing the mission at hand.”



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2/3, *From A-1*

atures that Camp Fuji and Hokkaido, Japan, provide. The training 2/3 will receive on Okinawa will give them a chance to operate in a concentrated jungle environment as well.

In addition to the training opportunities the battalion will receive, MacMannis also has his own goals set for his Marines during their time spent attached to 4th Marines.

“During our time here I plan to focus on improving the small unit leadership in the battalion, as well as developing a brilliance in the basics of infantry tactics,” MacMannis said.

The battalions from 3rd Marines are on a regular rotation between Hawaii and Okinawa due to UDP. The Island Warriors com-

*CRIME, From A-1*

The two individuals apprehended are suspected to have entered into unsecured vehicles and houses over several weeks, without force, and stolen money and valuables.

The suspects apprehended are Joshua T. Snow, 21, and Steven M. Wallace, 16. The base will pursue prosecution via the federal court system against Snow, and the State of Hawai’i Juvenile Court System against Wallace.

“I just want my stuff back,” said 8-year-old base resident Abby Hughes. Hughes’ parents had assumed Abby was losing or misplacing her CDs and related items. They never suspected someone could be stealing from their car.

“It’s just a good practice to never leave money and valuables in your car. If you do, lock the vehicle and keep money and valuables out of sight”, said Lt. Col. Chris Martin, base provost marshal. “Unfortunately, we all need to secure our homes even if we are only going to be gone for a short while.”

Investigators are urging residents in the community to keep their eyes and ears open, and to come forward with any information they might have about this case or any other, as the key to preventing and solving these sorts of crimes is community involvement.

*FORKIN, From A-5*

sistently outstanding performance of assigned duties and professional accomplishment, demonstrated scholarship and service to the community.

Upon reception of the ABA award, Forkin was quick in exercising modesty and sharing the glory.

"I couldn't take credit for the award, but instead that credit should be given to the exceptional Navy and Marine Corps Officers and Marine staff NCOs with whom I've worked with at the U.S. Naval Academy," said Forkin.

However, the people who work with Forkin on a day-to-day basis are just as quick to commend his accomplishments.

"Major Forkin is well-deserving of this award. In addition to his outstanding performance as a teacher of our future leaders of Marines and Sailors at the Naval Academy, he has proven, in a very short time, that he is a premier operational lawyer and a fine legal scholar," said Lt. Col. Robert E. Pinder, MarForPac SJA.

pleted their last tour with 4th Marines only seven months ago.

During their time in Hawaii they participated in Exercise Crocodile ‘03, a joint training evolution with military forces from Australia. The battalion also had a major turnover during that time, replacing approximately 60 percent of their forces with new Marines.

“This is my first time overseas,” said Pfc. Joseph Roy, rifleman from Echo Co. “I’m looking forward to the cold weather training we’re going to get; plus, I like the experience of living in a foreign country.”

It may be hard for the battalion to call one place home with constant seven-month deployments to Okinawa, but as

MacMannis explains, Marines from 2/3 get through the challenges with proper groundwork.

“Although stressful, with the right planning and preparation deployments are accepted,” MacMannis said. “Keeping Marines and their families understanding the purposes behind UDP is the key.”